



Linking People, Sustainable Agriculture, and Energy Solutions

Celebrating 40 Years

Alternative Energy Resources Organization

EXHIBIT # 2
DATE 02/18/15
HB 489

Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)

Jennifer Hill-Hart, Executive Director

432 N Last Chance Gulch

Helena, Montana 59601

February 18, 2015

RE: Support for HB 489

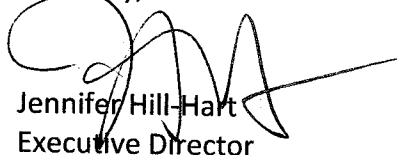
Dear Mr. Chair and Representatives of the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee:

My name is Jennifer Hill-Hart and I am the Executive Director of the AERO, the Alternative Energy Resources Organization. We are a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to building this state's self-sufficiency and our local economies through sustainable agriculture, energy conservation, energy efficiency and the development of Montana homegrown renewable energy resources. Our organization and its members are in support of HB 489. I speak on their behalf to the Committee today.

Net metering is a means to support homegrown energy independence and Montana has many opportunities to do this with ample wind and sun as energy sources. Our members support net metering as a means to support renewable energy development and businesses, and as way to capture clean Montana energy and help offset costs for their farms, ranches, businesses, and homes. The current net metering law only applies to NorthWestern Energy and each electric co-op has its own rules governing on-site energy systems. This can be confusing for utility customers and renewable energy developers in Montana. HB 489 would clarify the rules by putting all utilities under the same net metering law, making it easier for farmers, ranchers, and businesses owners to pursue net metering as a means to homegrown Montana energy production.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today and thank you to the sponsor for carrying this bill.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hill-Hart
Executive Director

